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Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

OLL 84-3605/1

The Honorable Peter W. Rodino
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to state the support of the Intelligence Community for H.R. 6272, a bill to extend the protection of federal criminal law to Intelligence Community personnel and probation pretrial services employees.

The Executive Branch and Congress have been in agreement as to the need for legislation of this type for some time. The Intelligence Community has sought the inclusion of its personnel within the list of protected federal officials for many years. Earlier this year, Vice Admiral E. A. Burkhalter, Jr., U.S.N., Director of the Intelligence Community Staff, restated this support in his testimony before the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice of the House Judiciary Committee. Additionally, there is a long history of Congressional consideration and support of similar proposals in both the 96th and 97th Congresses. During this Congress, the Senate has twice passed similar legislation in S. 779 and S. 1762. Finally, I want to stress that the President has previously indicated his support for protection of Intelligence Community personnel. In commenting on an earlier bill containing a similar provision, the President said: "I completely support some of the features of H.R. 3963, such as the Federal Intelligence Personnel Protection Act."

This legislation is essential to ensure that Intelligence Community personnel have the same protection under current law as many other employees of the Federal Government. I commend your Committee for its support of this bill and urge its enactment.

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This letter is also being sent to Chairman John Conyers, Jr., Subcommittee on Criminal Justice. The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this letter from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

/s/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

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